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News Release

Providence VA Medical Center
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Research Funded to Help Combat Antimicrobial Resistance

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – A research pharmacist at the Providence VA Medical Center received notification July 13 of a Career Development Award from the Veterans Health Administration to study the feasibility of penicillin allergy testing in both acute settings and long-term care.

“Antimicrobial resistance significantly threatens Veterans’ health and limits optimal patient outcomes,” said Dr. Kevin McConeghy, a clinician scientist with a clinical pharmacy background working in the VA Health Services Research and Development’s Center of Innovation in Long-Term Services and Support at the Providence VA Medical Center. “Documented penicillin allergies are prevalent in our Veteran population, but the lack of direct research in this area limits our understanding and ability to manage these allergies more effectively.”

McConeghy will evaluate a new penicillin allergy testing service in collaboration with nurse practitioner Julie White in the Providence VAMC’s Allergy Clinic. They will conduct qualitative case analyses, and study drug allergy prevalence and effects on VA patients in long-term care. The results will help determine the feasibility of drug allergy testing in VA acute and long-term care settings. The award will help fund two years of salary for the research.

“Dr. McConeghy’s research represents a novel contribution to the VA health care system,” said Dr. Gaurav Choudhary, chief of research at the Providence VAMC. “The results could play an important role in VA antimicrobial stewardship efforts locally and across the nation.”

The VA New England Healthcare System’s Career Development Award assists junior investigators in developing their research careers, helping them to successfully compete for further research funding.

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Dr. Kevin McConeghy, a clinician scientist in the VA Health Services Research and Development's Center of Innovation in Long-Term Services and Support at the Providence VA Medical Center, received notification July 13 of a Career Development Award from the Veterans Health Administration to study the feasibility of penicillin allergy testing, and possible effects on patient outcomes. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

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